



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/)

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Contact: Darin Ackerman  
517-373-6920

## **Sen. Kuipers' proposal helps ensure Michigan children be properly secured while traveling**

**LANSING** – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, introduced legislation today that helps protect children when they're riding in vehicles. The senator worked with constituent Gene Koopman, a member of the Lakeshore Safe Kids coalition, in creating the legislation.

Kuipers' bill would add to the fine when someone previously ticketed for violating Michigan's child-restraint laws is again cited. The fine would go from \$10 to \$100 for people who fail to properly restrain a child younger than 16.

"We hear too often about fatal car crashes involving children," Kuipers said. "My legislation would help enforce our state's child-restraint laws by cracking down on repeat offenders. I believe small children should be secured in the best way we know how when the child wouldn't be fully secured by normal safety belts."

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 15, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children younger than 15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Related legislation that is being considered by the Legislature would require all children older than four to ride in a booster seat until they turn eight or grow to at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall, whichever comes first.

The National Safe Kids Campaign is a national, nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury.

Kuipers' legislation is Senate Bill 491 and was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

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